

EXHIBIT 64

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	Criminal No.: 19-10080-NMG
)	
DAVID SIDOO, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

DECLARATION OF LAURA SMITH

I, Laura Smith, state the following:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) assigned to the Boston, Massachusetts Field Office. I joined the FBI in 2010 as a forensic accountant conducting complex financial investigations. I am currently a special agent on a squad that investigates economic crimes, including various forms of corporate fraud, securities fraud and bribery. I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice-Economic Crimes Investigation and a Master’s degree in Accounting.

2. Since approximately March 2018, I have been one of the case agents for “Operation Varsity Blues,” an investigation of fraud and bribery in the college admissions process.

3. On September 21, 2018, I participated in the approach of William “Rick” Singer, who was a target of the Varsity Blues investigation. On that day, I was accompanied by Special Agent Kaitlyn Cedrone of the FBI and Special Agent Elizabeth Keating of the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation division (“IRS-CI”) who are both assigned to the Varsity Blues investigation. My supervisor, FBI Supervisory Special Agent John Keelan, was also present for part of the approach. The goal of the approach was to determine whether Singer wanted to cooperate with the government’s investigation.

4. We approached Singer in a hotel room at the Marriott Long Wharf in Boston where he had been meeting with Rudolph Meredith, the women's soccer coach at Yale University and a cooperating witness in our investigation.

5. When we first approached Singer, he agreed to cooperate with our investigation and to be interviewed. However, Singer was not fully forthcoming regarding parts of his scheme, and it was my impression that he was not taking full responsibility for his conduct. In my training and experience, this reaction is typical of white collar defendants, who often rationalize their actions and have trouble acknowledging that what they have done is criminal. This is particularly true in the early days and weeks after they have been caught.

6. For example, Singer told us that the payments he and his clients made to university athletics programs were "donations." Special Agent Keating told Singer, in substance, that a payment in exchange for recruiting a fake student athlete to an athletic team is illegal.

7. Based on my experience working with Special Agent Keating, she is typically soft-spoken. I recall her raising her voice somewhat during this portion of the interview with Singer.

8. The next day, September 22, 2018, after consulting with his attorney, Singer agreed to consensually record phone calls with other individuals involved in his scheme, including several coaches. Over the next few days, Singer also had calls with new clients and parents who were in the middle of the scheme. For these calls, we instructed Singer to be more explicit about the bribery aspect of the scheme. We told him to tell the parents that in exchange for a payment to a coach, their child would be recruited as an athlete based on falsified credentials.

9. Singer resisted our direction to be more explicit, explaining that he typically told clients that the payments were "donations" to an athletic "program," not payments to the coach. I

14. I did not instruct Singer to ask parents to “agree to a lie [he] was telling” about their actions or intent, and to my knowledge Singer did not do that.

15. I did not instruct Singer “to ask questions and retrieve responses that are not accurate” about the parents’ actions and intent, and to my knowledge he did not do that.


16. I did not tell Singer that we wanted to “nail” or entrap any defendant, and I did not want to do that.

17. I did not ask Singer to bend the truth, other than by using the proactive investigative techniques described above. I did, however, repeatedly tell Singer that he needed to be truthful with us about his actions and those of his co-conspirators.

18. I first saw Singer’s October 2 note on October 28, 2018. I did not address the note with Singer because I knew that it referred to our instructions, in early October 2018, that he be more explicit on calls with clients who had not yet completed the fraud. And I knew that he had resisted that direction. I also knew that the October 2 note did not relate to the historical “audit” calls that occurred weeks later.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 4/24/2020


Laura Smith
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation